

THE MYSTERY OF GRASLOV

By Ashley Towne

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Charles H. Eberhart

(Continued from last week)

CHAPTER VI. AN AMERICAN GIRL'S PLEA.

NOTHING glared from the window showed Frances that the car had come to a stop near a new building, "a branch of the Irish, involuntarily she sighed for the man who had built that bridge—Denton, whose eye was keen and steady, whose muscles were of iron.

But Denton was miles farther on, at the Old. "Now, said Neslov, as the girl sank back in her seat, 'let us face this situation, my dear. Let us realize the true significance. We are practically alone, you and I. Save for the poor wretches in that village yonder, we are the only people on this earth just now. Can you realize the fullness of that statement? You are mine—absolutely and wholly mine.'

"Oh, you cur! You coward!" exclaimed Frances. Her hand went as if by instinct toward that pocket from which she had drawn her revolver only a few moments before. Neslov saw her face turn white still, and he laughed pleasantly.

"Of course I guarded against that," he said. "I knew you would, with your American intelligence, try to shoot me dead. So, while you slept, I quietly took your little toy pistol from your pocket. I have it here. This, I believe, deprives you of the power to do any more mischief."

"Oh, you miserable coward!" You thief!" said Frances in a tense voice. "I wish there was a good American fist here to strike that grinning face of yours."

"Undoubtedly," said Neslov, with an exasperating coolness, "I would be as pleasant to you, but it would be unfortunate for the American who owned the fist. One blow—just one! He would be torn apart by my agreeable savages yonder."

She could not resist the temptation to follow his finger as it pointed through the window on his side of the car. A short distance, on the banks of the stream, she saw a wretched, miserable village of rude huts. Men and women, dressed in leather, undressed skins, heavy cloths from Moscow merchants, stood in groups, all with their faces toward the car.

"Were I to say the word," said Neslov, "these people would tear you limb from limb and would perform the same agreeable service for any fool who attempted to interfere between us."

"Monster!" she gasped.

"Of course I am a monster to you," he said. "All Russians are monsters to those who do not like us. We may have our little peculiarities. One of them is that what we cannot get by fair means we get some other way. I spoke to your father, and I spoke to you. I offered the honest love of a Russian prince. I was spurned. But now the game is mine, and I shall win. You shall become my wife before your father has time to return from the Old."

"Never! I would prefer to be torn apart by your villagers!"

"You believe that now while you are in the heat of anger, but a short period of rest and contemplation will show you the folly of your refusal. Think of this, I shall go out now and obtain some food. We may remain here a week. Who knows? Before I leave you I wish to say that until you consent to have the priest of that village make you my wife you shall not be permitted to leave this car. I much prefer, as would any man, a willing bride, but, denied this, I will compel you to obey. It will be the worse for you. I offered love—an affection, an engagement. You refused. Now I command! Think this matter settled—only when we are married."

"Never! You have my revolver and, I suppose, one of your own. Shoot me if you will. I will not marry you."

"It will not be you I shoot. What do you think your father will do when he finds you are left behind?"

"Without doubt he will obtain a special train and come here after me. Then, Frances Neslov, beware!"

He smiled like a wolf and showed his teeth.

"That is what I wanted you to say. If when your father comes here you are not my wife, I will shoot him dead."

"You dare not!" she gasped.

"I dare anything. No report of mine would be discovered at St. Petersburg. I could prove that your father was a conspirator against the government and was shot while fighting my soldiers."

"There is a government of the United States of America!"

"True, but at a distance. I do not fear it. But consider what I have said. I will return with food."

manded.
"I will not!"
"I will make you!"
He held the cup in his right hand. With his left he grasped her by the hair. His hand was on her head.
"Open your mouth. Swallow the wine. I will choke you," he cried.
With a powerful effort she wrenched herself free and to her feet, and the wine went to the floor with a splash.
Her eyes were flashing with desperation. She clinched her fist and rained blow upon blow upon his face.

Curse deep and terrible burst from him. He clenched her round the waist and struggled with her. She exerted all her strength. She was like a ferocious bear when she scratched his face and tore his hair. Her blows cut his lips on his teeth. But he was a powerful man and used his strength against this captive woman. With a gasp she succumbed and sank helpless and exhausted almost in his arms.

"Curse you!" she spluttered between his swollen lips. "I have wasted my kindness on you! I should have starved you. But I will delay no longer. I'll drag you to the priest, and in ten minutes you will be the Princess Neslov—and my slave for life. I'll break your heart, you devil!"

He closed his arms tightly about her and dragged her from the car. The villagers stared in astonishment as they saw him coming toward them with his burden.

"What means this strange happening, little father?" asked a woman of an older man of the village. "Is the man killing her?"

"Let her growl the man. 'Use your eyes in your house, but meddle with other men's as the man's wife is good. He will not hurt her. She is probably his wife.'

"Russian wives are accustomed to cruelty from their husbands. A beating is but part of their demonstrations of authority as head of the household. The women looked on with apathy, while the men smiled."

"He has married a Tartar," they said among themselves.

"Help! Save me from this man!" cried Frances as Neslov laid her on the ground, half carried by the nearest group.

"Where is your priest?" Neslov demanded. "Get him at once. Not only he, but all in the place, will receive pay. Call the priest at once!"

"Save me from an American! Gordon—the man who built—the road—is my father!" cried Frances, struggling again.

A bent old man was seen shambling toward them.

"This young woman and I are to be married. Hurry. We have been left behind in that car, and to save her good name she must marry me. Proceed!"

"No! For pity's sake, do not!" cried Frances. "My father will pay you well. Let me go home with my mother and I hate him!"

"I command you to marry us!" shouted Neslov.

A tall man of about middle age stepped from the crowd.

"I am Neslov, governor of Tomsk!" shouted the priest, now perfectly frenzied. "He is my enemy. I command! I say the words that will make this girl my wife."

"Please do not!" cried Frances. "He has stolen me from my father! He is a cruel monster! I cannot marry him!"

"He is my enemy, the governor!" shouted the old man. "We must obey."

Neslov seized her by the wrist and swung her toward the priest. The villagers crowded round, awestruck at the great man's hand. They well knew the governor. Many of them had felt the beam at his command.

"It must be done," again muttered the priest.

"No, not!" cried Frances, trying to wrench away from Neslov.

A hand was laid quietly away from the crowd and ran.

en man and started toward the hut into which Frances had been carried.

"Look out!" cried a woman.

At the cry, which was echoed in the crowd, Denton turned suddenly. The darkly dressed man fled and fled. He had vision to his feet and was creeping upon his enemy with a dagger drawn.

"Oh, you are an assassin, eh?" said Denton as he drew his revolver. "Let me see if we can't settle you once for all!"

While it might be that not one of the villagers sympathized with Neslov, yet his act was not a crime to them. With their partial understanding of women having no rights, no freedom, no liberties save what the men of this place looked upon the eagerness of Neslov to be married to so beautiful a girl as natural.

One of them, realizing that the governor's safety was necessary to their own, sprang upon Denton and drove a knife through the fleshy part of his arm.

The pistol fell to the earth near that of Neslov and two villagers picked them up and hid them.

Like a flash Neslov was upon his married foe, and his knife was raised to strike, but Denton, with a quicker instinct, fell to the ground with a gasp.

When the young rooster begins to crow, he wants the frying pan, or, rather, the frying pan wants him.

Cows, clover and corn will, if properly combined, put any farmer in the western prairie sections on his feet financially.

The census shows that the state of Iowa produces just a million dollars a day in farm products for every day in the year.

There are lots of farmers who overwork themselves for thirty-five years so as to be able to spend their savings and last days at some sanitarium in a vain effort to recover lost health.

We have found the purple top Sweden turnip about the 1st of August. It is the best turnip for table use which we can produce. Turnips make their best growth during the moist, cool fall days.

It will always be hard to make some farmers understand the payment of all taxes and to be able to pay them on time. It is always hard to make some farmers understand the payment of all taxes and to be able to pay them on time.

With a grasp of an iron Denton seized the hand of Neslov that held the dagger, but with a wrench the governor got it away and cut to the bone half the length of Denton's finger.

But the American scarcely felt the wound. He was not fighting now for life, nor for vengeance. He was fighting for that girl who lay in the hut.

He knew that if Neslov killed him and was made such a hell in the power of this monster of brutality that death would be preferable.

A year ago she had told him she did not and never could love him. It had been a quarrel. She didn't want to get married, and he asked her if his rough exterior, the result of years of hard work in rude and dangerous places, was disagreeable to her. He said there were fine gentlemen at Paris, New York, London and St. Petersburg. She had answered that she knew it. She preferred their company to bores. They parted then and had not met till now.

Denton and Neslov kept fighting on, the villagers too much agitated to step between or utter a word.

Neslov felt his right arm gashed weakly. Denton's knife had slashed through the sleeve of his coat and found the bone near the elbow. An artery must have been cut, for the blood was thrown from the end of the sleeve. Made desperate, he gathered all his strength for a final effort and sprang boldly upon his foe.

Denton, seeing an opportunity and knowing that nothing but a deathblow seemed likely to end the fight, met the plunge and drove his knife into Neslov's side.

With another curse, a spluttering of blood and a groan the governor of Tomsk sank to the ground at the foot of his adversary unconscious.

"Take care of him, you fellows; no need to let him die," said Denton, examining the wound. "His lung is not touched. Nothing fatal here, I am glad to say. Here, you."



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The fall working of the public highways is a mistake.

August files make the cows shrink in their milk, no matter how good the pastures may be.

Timothy will do well sown the fore part of September, but do not sow the clover until spring.

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"You know more about surgery than the rest. Get some water, bathe these wounds, take a few stitches in the side cuts and bandage him up."

"Yes, little father," said the priest, trembling. "But what of you?"

"I can take care of myself."



THE AX of toughest steel becomes dulled by constant use and must have a new edge if it is to do good work. Constant work dulls a man as it does an ax, makes him sluggish of body and dull of mind. He needs a tonic, something that will restore the keenness of mind and activity of body.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery puts new life into weak, worn-out, run-down men and women. It strengthens the weak stomach, purifies the blood, and effectively stimulates the liver. The whole body is built up with nourishing food by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery."

I was confined to my bed for four months from January 1st, 1897, until this time. I do almost any kind of house work. My medicine saved me from my grave. Thanks to you for the benefit. My case was hopeless when I began taking your medicine.

Don't be fooled into taking a substitute for a shadow. Any substitute offered as "just as good" as "Golden Medical Discovery," is a shadow of that which is real. Sir John Archibald claims made for the "Discovery," which is "just as good" medicine "as can do." Biliousness is cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

Taking Out the Sting. One day at a rehearsal W. S. Gilbert observed a girl crying and asked her the cause of it.

Between her sobs the girl declared she had been insulted by one of the costumed, who had said to her, "You are no better than you ought to be."

What Puzled Him. Sir Joshua Fitch told a story of the nature study exhibition in London illustrating the popular wonder at scientific knowledge.

Friendly. Myer-Slyker is a friendly sort of chap, isn't he? Gyer—Yes, he's the best too friendly.

A Tag at It. She—You must not kiss me until we are formally engaged. He—Do you mean to say that you always insist upon that rule? She—I've always tried to.—Detroit News Tribune.

Constipation. Does your head ache? Pain back of your eyes? Bad taste in your mouth? It's your liver! Ayer's Pills are liver pills. They cure constipation, headache, dyspepsia.

Dr. King's New Discovery. Consumption, Coughs and Colds. Than By All Other Throat and Lung Remedies Combined.

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TRANSPANTED TREES. Why They Frequently Remain Dormant a Whole Season. Certain kinds of trees frequently remain dormant all summer, following spring transplanting. To this appears they are dead, and they are an eyesore to the owner left removed.

The writer of this has seen many such trees, horse chestnuts, aspens and tulip trees remain perfectly dormant all summer and come out safely into leaf the following spring. It seems contrary to nature that trees should live without the leaves, which we learn are their lungs and essential for evaporation and assimilation of food in the growing season.

Explanation of this peculiar action is had by studying for a moment the conditions that probably exist. The roots of such trees have been disturbed and their feeding powers suddenly checked. They are called upon to support the tops as formerly, yet their opportunity for the time being is gone. A struggle is going on. The tops make a feeble effort to put forth buds and draw on the roots for nourishment with poor success.

The roots yield of their stored food, but are too weak or are not in a position to make new feeding fibers. If the tops have not been pruned, the drain is so much the greater. Where leaves are forth, transpiration would be more than the trees could stand, and they would gradually die away.—Mechan's Monthly.

Hard to Get. A certain young fellow received a government berth, for which he had to undergo a very strict examination. A friend of his who had been noticing how little work he did to earn his salary tackled him.

"I say, Walter, my boy," he began, "you don't perform a great deal of labor, do you?"

"No, I don't have to." "Aren't you expected to work?" "Of course not," was the candid reply. "It takes so much hard work to get a job like this that the authorities haven't the nerve to ask a man to do anything more to earn his salary after he gets it."

An Enterprising Burglar. A professional burglar in Berlin found a new and original way of adding to the ordinary profits of his profession. After each burglary he sent a full account of it to one of the daily newspapers, and for this he received payment in the usual way.

One day a plan once for often. The editor became suspicious and gave information to the police, who soon found how this amateur reporter was able to beat all rivals in the way of early information.

CLEANING AND HEALING CURE FOR CATARRH. Ely's Cream Balm. Easy and pleasant to use. Contains no injurious drugs.

It is quickly absorbed. Gives Relief at once. It opens and cleanses the Nasal Passages. Alleviates Inflammation. Heals and Protects the Membrane. Restores the Senses of Taste and Smell.

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TIME TABLE. Corrected to May 1, 1902. NEW YORK. A. M. P. M. Buffalo, N. Y. 10:00 10:00

GOING EAST. NEW YORK. A. M. P. M. Buffalo, N. Y. 10:00 10:00

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. TIME TABLE. In Effect May 25, 1902.

PHILADELPHIA and READING RAILWAY. IN EFFECT JUNE 20, 1902.

TRAINS LEAVE DANVILLE. For Philadelphia 11:21 a. m.

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Shoe Shoes. Stylish! Cheap! Reliable!

Bicycle, Gymnasium and Tennis Shoes. THE CELEBRATED Carlisle Shoes.

AND THE Snag Proof Rubber Boots. A SPECIALTY. A. SCHATZ.

SOMETHING NEW! A Reliable TIN SHOP. For all kind of Tin Roofing, Spouting and General Job Work.

PRICES THE LOWEST! QUALITY THE BEST! JOHN HIXSON. NO. 116 E. FRONT ST.

Wall Paper! JUST RECEIVED A CAR LOAD OF WALL PAPER.

Having purchased it in this quantity will enable me to sell at Wholesale Prices! Please call and examine the stock and get our prices.

A. H. GRONE, 112 MILL ST. PHILADELPHIA and READING RAILWAY. IN EFFECT JUNE 20, 1902.

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